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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION **U.S. CUSTOMS SERVICE**

WASHINGTON, D.C.

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AIR-1-IC:P WK

DOCKET SECTION

Docket Clerk
U.S. Department of Transportation
Docket Number 47381
400 7th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

To Whom It May Concern:

U.S. Customs has reviewed your proposed rulemaking Notice 91-2, on mandatory collecting of passenger manifest information as mandated in Public Law 101-604. We have several comments to propose pertaining to our Advanced Passenger Information System (APIS), which we believe is comparable and beneficial to your proposed rulemaking.

Your statutory requirement specifies that the passenger manifest contain the full name of each passenger, the passport number, and the name and telephone number of a contact for each passenger. For our APIS system to be most effective, we require the date of birth (DOB). We propose that you include DOB as a mandatory field. By capturing the DOB as a mandatory field, airlines would possess all the necessary data to construct APIS. With this data, they could then transmit electronically to our data center allowing Customs and other Government agencies to evaluate advance passenger information on each arriving traveler. The DOB is essential for proper risk assessment.

We feel that this additional field also serves the United States Government's interest by allowing the Federal Inspection Services (FIS) to expedite the low-risk traveler and provide a greater facilitation to passengers, airlines, airport operators, and Government agencies. Additionally, high-risk travelers would be targeted against the enforcement database and selected for an intensive examination more effectively. These databases contain information from a variety of Government agencies, including the terrorist database from the Department of State.

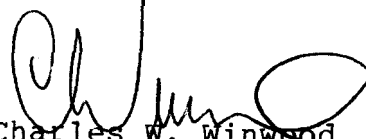
We hope that you will endorse our proposal since it serves the needs of both of our agencies, other Government agencies, airport operators, airlines, and the traveling public. We look forward to your final rulemaking and hope that it serves all parties to the fullest.

2 pp.

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If you require any additional information on APIS, please contact Mr. Michael Lovejoy, of my staff, at (202) 566-5607.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Winwood', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Charles W. Winwood
Assistant Commissioner
Office of Inspection and Control